Defence Personnel on Cabinet Committee on Security

*199. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Armed Forces are not part of the Cabinet Committee on Security;

(b) if so, the reasons for non-inclusion of Defence personnel on highest decision making body of national security; and

(c) whether Government propose for their inclusion as demanded by them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) In conformity with our democratic polity, the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces are represented by the Defence Minister on the Cabinet Committee on Security. Further, the Chiefs of Army, Navy & Air Force and the Defence Secretary are also in attendance in various meetings of the Cabinet Committee on Security on 'as required' basis. This arrangement is working satisfactorily.

Nepal a Conduit for Terrorism

*200. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Nepal continues to be a conduit for terrorism and a safe haven for Kashmiri terrorists and ISI agents;

(b) whether the Terai region in Nepal which borders Bihar and U.P. has become hot bed of Islamic fundamentalism;

(c) whether as many as 30 ISI agents were arrested with large quantity of RDX explosives from this area; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) The Government of India is concerned about